

Appl. No. : 10/718,374
Filed : November 19, 2003

REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are responsive to the May 31, 2005 Office Action. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner objected to the drawings as not showing a ceiling tile, HVAC grill, and ceiling speaker as recited in Claims 15-17 respectively. Applicants have canceled Claims 15-17 and thus, the Examiner's objections to the drawings are traversed.

Amendments to the Drawings

Applicants have amended Figure 5A to add reference numbers 25-28 for the fluorescent sockets already shown in the drawing. This amendment only adds reference numbers to existing element in the drawing, and does not add any new matter.

Amendments to the Specification

Applicants have amended paragraph [0027] to indicate the reference numbers of the sockets 25-28 shown in Figure 5A and to clarify that the sockets 25-28 are not shown in 5B. These amendments add no new matter.

Response to Rejection of Claims 15-17 Under 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph

The Examiner rejected Claims 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner argues that the repeater can be attached to or an integral part of a building accoutrement as claimed by the Applicant, but cannot replace a building accoutrement.

Based on the Examiner's arguments Applicant respectfully asserts that the Examiner's rejection of Claims 15-17 is not based on enablement, but rather the rejection is based on language semantics, and thus, the rejection should be an indefiniteness rejection based on 35

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Please amend Figure 5A as shown.

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U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. A repeater integrated into or attached to a building accoutrement that replaces an existing building accoutrement can be described as replacing the accoutrement. As such, the specification provides enablement for replacing a building accoutrement with a repeater.

Nevertheless, in order to expedite allowance of the remaining claims, Applicant has canceled Claim 14. Since Claims 15-17 depend from Claim 14, Applicant has further canceled Claims 15-17.

Response to Rejection of Claims 1-14 and 18 Under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-14 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0199247 to Strierner.

Regarding Claim 1, Strierner does not teach or suggest a transceiver unit, a first power supply electrically coupled to the transceiver unit, a plug configured to mate with a fluorescent light fixture socket, and a housing unit for housing the transceiver and first power supply, wherein the plug is provided to the housing unit.

Regarding Claim 2, Strierner does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first power supply includes a rechargeable power storage module, the module being recharged by the electrical power when supplied to the fluorescent light fixture socket.

Regarding Claim 3, Strierner does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first power supply includes a rechargeable power storage cell and a power charger, the power charger recharging the rechargeable power storage cell when electric power is supplied to the fluorescent light fixture socket.

Regarding Claim 4, Strierner does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the housing unit further includes at least one fluorescent light socket.

Regarding Claim 5, Strierner does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the housing unit comprises a first mating structure for mechanically installing into the fluorescent light fixture.

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Regarding Claim 5, Striemer does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the housing unit further comprises a fluorescent light socket for maintaining the fluorescent light fixture functionality.

Regarding Claim 7, Striemer does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first power supply is powered-on when the fluorescent light fixture is powered-off.

Regarding Claim 8, Striemer does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first power supply is powered-off when the fluorescent light fixture is powered-on.

Regarding Claim 9, Striemer does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first power supply is being recharged when the fluorescent light fixture is powered-on.

Regarding Claim 10, Striemer does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the first power supply is adapted to provide power to the transceiver unit even when electrical power is unavailable to the fluorescent light fixtures.

Regarding Claim 11, Striemer does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the fluorescent light fixture is located in an apartment building and a transducer sends a signal to the electrically powered fixture.

Regarding Claim 12, Striemer does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the transceiver unit receives a signal from at least one transducer and re-transmits the signal to a base station.

Regarding Claim 18, Striemer does not teach or suggest housing a transceiver and first power supply in a housing having a connector configured to connect to a fluorescent light socket in a fluorescent light fixture, connecting the connector to the fluorescent light socket in the fluorescent light fixture, and receiving a signal, transmitting a signal, providing power from the fluorescent light socket in the fluorescent light fixture to recharge the first power supply, and when power is not available from the second power supply fluorescent light socket in the fluorescent light fixture, providing power to the transceiver circuit from the first power supply.

Accordingly, Applicant asserts that Claims 1-12 and 18 are in condition for allowance, and applicant requests allowance of Claims 1-12 and 18.

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Response to Rejection of Claim 13 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

The Examiner rejected Claim 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication US 2003/0199247 A1 to Striemer.

Regarding Claim 13, Striemer does not teach or suggest the repeater in accordance with Claim 1, wherein the housing unit is adapted to insert into an exit sign.

Accordingly, Applicant asserts that Claim 13 is in condition for allowance, and applicant requests allowance of Claim 13.


Summary

Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-13 and 18 are in condition for allowance, and Applicants request allowance of Claims 1-13 and 18. If there are any remaining issues that can be resolved by telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (949) 721-6305.

Respectfully submitted,

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